

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claims 1 3 (previously canceled).

4 (previously presented). A coupling device between a towing vehicle and a trailer, which comprises a coupling ball arranged on a coupling carrier of the towing vehicle and a ball socket on the trailer side encompassing the coupling ball from above, wherein the ball socket is comprised of a moulded article made of a ferrous material and has a casting crust at least on the interior of the socket.

5 (currently amended). A coupling device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the ball socket has a lesser hardness by Rockwell hardness 5 to 12, preferably Rockwell hardness 6, than the coupling ball made of hardened steel.

6 (previously presented). A coupling device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the moulded article comprises the ball socket and a connecting plate.

7 (new). A coupling device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the ball socket has a lesser hardness by Rockwell hardness 6 than the coupling ball made of hardened steel.